

# THE ADVOCATE

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## Why I Come To Work

by Emmanuel Amaechi, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist

I'm **Emmanuel Amaechi** and my position at DYRS involves implementing and maintaining an integrated risk management program that addresses safety, security, emergency preparedness, and ensures that the loss prevention programs are effective in addressing DYRS' risk and safety exposures. This summer, I completed a certification course in Industrial Hygiene Management. The course provided a practical understanding of industrial hygiene standards and measurements enforced by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). It sharpened my skills in dealing with workplace hazards such as exposure to chemical, physical, ergonomic and biological agents, and faulty work practices. It is worthy to note that the course was paid for by the Agency (DYRS), and as a certified Industrial Hygiene Manager, I am able to work more authoritatively with regulatory compliance entities to the benefit of the Agency.



## Spoken Word, Basketball, and Awards at the Youth Recognition Ceremony



Words of encouragement, beautiful poetry and a celebration of achievement—these were the many things which made the Youth Recognition Ceremony a heartfelt occasion where adjudicated youth were honored for being enrolled in college, graduating from high school, holding a steady job, or achieving personal success. Local basketball star, poet and charitable 'Gentle Giant,' **Etan Thomas** of the Washington Wizards, shared his poems describing obstacles (familiar to the audience) which he and his friends faced while growing up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. As a keynote speaker, Etan's speech resonated with the audience when he spoke on the importance of second chances and taking full advantage when they come along. In addition to plaques and certificates, youth were given Etan Thomas' autographed book of poems titled, "More Than an Athlete."

## Youth Create Colorful Signs Around Oak Hill Campus

Several youth created original artwork signs to beautify the Oak Hill campus. Through the carpentry/woodworking vocational program at Oak Hill Academy, youth worked with **Matt Barinholtz** to design, mold and construct artistic and colorful signs that help to easily locate various buildings on campus. The creation of signs around Oak Hill campus was part of the Summer Youth Employment Program where the youth participated in several different employment activities such as culinary, horticulture, recreational leadership, carpentry and media advocacy.

